IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): AOKI et al. Atty. Dkt.: 26DT-005-CON

Serial No.: Unknown Group Art Unit:

Filed: Concurrently herewith Examiner:

Title: FUEL TANK WELDING JOINT

AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

Date: March 2, 2004

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and consider the appended remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Listing of Claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.